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And Titian's golden blossoms bloom,
And woods and forests re-illumine.
Deep in the desert's tangled shade,
Sublime in all his tints arrayed,
See Rubens' wilder fancy roam ;*
His dogs fly fleet—his coursers foam,
Till on their game the hunters spring,
And mimic forests seem to ring !
As spent with rage the wild boar dies,
And great in death the savage lies !

High 'mid his Alps, see Rosa lean,†
Grand as his wild sequester'd scene ;
Where cliffs depend, and vapours lower,
See fierce banditti round him pour ;
No mercy in their, vengeful eyes—
Aghast the shrinking traveller flies !
Thine too Salvator is the meed,
The Muses yield their vot'rys dead.
Rosa sublime his Alps among,
Melodious breathing sigh'd in song,
Though 'twas his fate neglect to find,
Unfading wreaths his temples bind.

Dipt in the rose's damask hue,
See Romney's pencil warm imbue,‡

* Ruben's Hunting pieces.

† Salvator Rosa, famous for Alpine scenery, with Banditti.

‡ Romney's picture of the birth of Shakespeare, attended by Nature and the Passions.

With vermil tint, each speaking face,
Each sorrowing look, each smiling grace ;
As wild the varying passions roll,
Their influence o'er a Shakespeare's soul !

Till in her robe, by fancy span,
Maternal Nature wraps her son,
While the meek Graces blushing stand,
From softer Kauffman's tender hand.

And you dear maid, whose mind unfolds,
The earliest gems that Science moulds ;
She bids thee share the boundless stores,
That Culture on young Genius pours,—
Bids—while thy purest pencil strays,
By Judgment led, through Faucy's maze,
Steal from the Spring her tenderest bloom ;

Or sip in Summer's rich perfume ;
Or to the mellow Autumn fly,
And cull a wreath of various die ;
Till Art mature with rip'ning hands,
Each bud evolves, each stem expands ;
Till thy chaste Landscapes call to view
Salvator's strength, and Lorraine's hue :
And Taste, that marks her vot'ry's flame,
Shall bless thee with unfading fame ?

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Fasciculus the Second of the Belfast Literary Society, on the Linen and Hempen Manufactures in the Province of Ulster ; by S. M. Stephenson, M.D. M.B.L.S. 4to. p.p. 88, Smyth & Lyons, Belfast, 1808.

“A GREATER eulogy,” says Hume, “cannot be given to any man, than to display his usefulness to the public.” We have seldom, indeed, met with a work, in which there is more solid practical sense, than in the one before us ; and if the Belfast Literary Society publish many such papers, they will do credit to themselves, and be of much utility to the public. Since the pamphlet written by Mr. Louis Crommelin, “overseer of the royal Linen manufactory of Ireland,” entitled, “An Essay towards the Improving of the Hempen and Flaxen manufacture of that country ;” printed in 1703, little has for many years been produced on that most important subject. The late Mr. William-son of Lambeg, formed the design

of correcting the various abuses which prevailed in the linen trade, and about the year 1762, conceived the plan of reducing to practice the theory, and of realising the hopes of Sir William Temple, and Dean Swift, by framing a system of wholesome laws, which would reform the evils, that had nearly been fatal to the staple trade of Ireland. Preparatory to this, he published eight tracts on the subject, and by an enthusiastic and unwearied assiduity, opposed sometimes by the prejudices and dishonesty of the lower classes, as well as by illiberal jealousy in some of the higher, accomplished his most useful object, of a ten years pursuit, in the digest of laws, which, with some variations, and these not important, continue to regulate the linen manufacture to this day.

The treatise under our consideration, in the words of its author, “in a History of the Linen Manufacture, relates the different operations, which he knows have been, and are performed in the province

of Ulster, upon the *Linum usitatissimum Linn.*" It is executed in a manner, so judicious and contains so much minute and valuable matter, that none but a practitioner can sufficiently appreciate its merits, and he must be a proficient indeed, who does not derive information from it. Though the work of Doctor Stephenson is compressed into eighty pages quarto, yet does it contain document sufficient for a considerable volume. A treatise more showy might have been written; it could have been ornamented with adventitious materials; but this is composed with skill, and expressed with simplicity. The man of science, as well as the perspicacious observer, is seen in it throughout. In such compositions, the author has justly decided, that costly enrichments would be unsuitable, and to him could not be applied, the sarcastic compliment of Appelles, who, on seeing the picture of a Venus, magnificently attired, said to the operator, "Friend, thou hast not been able to make her fair, thou hast certainly made her fine."

The Doctor has commenced his work with the ancient history of the linen manufacture. On this subject he has been concise; as it is matter of curiosity, rather than utility, from whence, or at what period, the *linum* or flax was first imported into Ireland. Of the numerous species of this plant (Miller has particularized eighteen) three only afford the fibrous texture for spinning. The first is that invaluable annual, the seed of which is imported in such quantities from the north of Europe, and from America; the rich substitute for the fleece, the manufacture of which, this country was deprived of by a British House of Commons. The two perennial plants, those from Siberia and Istria, have been tried for the raw material of Linen, but with little success. The author dwells a short time on the period of the introduction of linen, and he soon passes from Phenicia through Greece into Carthage and Spain, from whence he introduces the linen manufacture into Ireland, where, if it has not been the earliest, it has probably been the most extensive and successful in the world. Among the ancient wearers of linen, the Doctor has not looked under

the tunic of the Roman Emperor, Alexander Severus, to determine the important point, whether his Imperial Majesty was the first who wore a clean shirt. He recurs immediately to more important matter; the establishment of the manufacture in this country; the culture and management of flax; the spinning of yarn and weaving of linen; the laws for the regulation of the trade, and lastly the bleaching. In these several particulars, he evinces the knowledge of an agriculturist, a tradesman, a mechanic, and a chemist.

It is but doing injustice to the work to give partial quotations, where there is so much connected document, and so little verbiage. We shall now, however, present our readers with a short extract from the commencement of the Treatise, reserving our further notices for a future number.

Speaking of the records of our Historians, as to the early introduction of the spindle and the loom from Carthage and Spain, he says, "If it be objected to this, that there is no single word in the Irish language that signifies a loom, it may be replied, that the same may be said of all the western languages. Thus, in English, loom originally signified any machine, but was afterwards appropriated to the weaver's frame. In like manner, a loom in Irish, is *Beart-fhigheadh*, the weaver's frame or engine.

"Dr. Johnson has not the substantive sley. The verb, according to him, signifies, to part, or twist into threads. For further explanation he refers us to *sleave*, a word, of which, he candidly confesses that he knows not well the meaning. The sley is the reed, the comb or pecten; and the sleys or sley-boards, the frame in which it is fixed; and the original of this word Dr. Johnson might have learned in the Western Isles, where *sleighe*, signifies a way, and when applied to a loom, the way through which the yarn must pass before weaving. A sliver of wool is a skein or lock, which has passed through the sley.

"The shuttle is often confounded with the sley, although both their derivation and office are widely different. Scut is a boat, and nothing can resemble a boat, cut out of a

single tree, more than the ancient shuttle of this kingdom. Those who admit, that these words are derived from the Phenician, will consider them as presumptive evidence, that the Irish were acquainted with these implements from the most remote antiquity.

"The Act of Henry VIII. against grey merchants forestalling, proves that Linen Yarn was a very considerable article of commerce, at that time, in Ireland. In the reign of Elizabeth, this Act was revived, with an additional clause, prohibiting the watering of Flax and Hemp in rivers. In another act, passed in the thirteenth year of the same reign, against the exportation of wool, flax, and linen and woollen yarn, it is recited that the merchants of Ireland had been exporters of these articles for upwards of one hundred years before that period. In 1599, Fynes Morrison, Secretary to Lord Mountjoy, observes that Ireland yields much flax, which the inhabitants work into yarn, and export in great quantity. There is still extant an act of Parliament, restricting the higher orders from wearing an extravagant quantity of linen in their shirts. In the reign of Charles I. Lord Strafford adopted the most effectual measures for the encouragement of the Linen Manufacture, and in 1673, Sir William Temple asserts, that if the spinning of flax were encouraged, we should soon beat both the French and Dutch out of the English market. In that year, England imported from France linen, to the amount of £507,250 4 0, including 2820 pair of old sheets.

In 1678 the absurdity of this traffic became so evident, that it was prohibited. But in 1685, James II. was so much in the French interest, that he obtained a repeal of the prohibitory act. At the revolution, however, the importation of French linen was declared a common nuisance in the parliaments of the three kingdoms, and finally suppressed. In 1698, the woollen manufacture had taken such deep root in Ireland, as to excite English jealousy to such a degree, that both Houses of Parliament addressed King William on the subject, beseeching him to take effectual measures to discourage the Woollen Manufacture

in Ireland, and promising, in this case, every encouragement to the Manufacture of Linen. This stipulation was announced to the Irish Parliament by the Lords Justices in their speech from the throne. The two Houses readily acquiesced, and this transaction has ever since been considered by the Irish as a solemn compact between the two nations.

"In consequence of an Act of the ninth of Anne, a Board of Trustees of the Linen and Hempen manufactures was established; and on the sixth of October, 1711, the Duke of Ormond nominated an equal number of Trustees for each province.

"This is justly considered as an event of great importance in the history of the Linen trade; but was preceded by one, perhaps, of equal consequence, the emigration of the Hugonots, from France, on account of the revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685. Many of these refugees who had carried on the linen manufacture in France, were attracted to these kingdoms by their attachment to King William, and encouraged to settle in Ireland by the measures that had been taken in favour of the Linen trade. Among these was Mr. Lewis Cromelin, who obtained a patent for carrying on and improving the Linen Manufacture, accompanied with a grant of £800 per annum, as Interest of £10,000 to be advanced by him, or by his procurement, as a stock for carrying on the same; £200 per annum for his pains and care in carrying on the said work; £120 per annum for three assistants, and £60 per annum for the support of a French Minister. This patent was renewed by Queen Anne; but, in 1716, on the appointment of itinerants in each province, the three assistants were struck off. In consequence of this patent, Mr. Cromelin settled in Lisburn, in this County. He was a native of St. Quintin, where his ancestors had carried on the manufacture of Linen with great success, for many generations. In 1705, he published a book, in which he successfully combatted the prejudices that prevailed against the culture of Flax, and the manufacture of Linen. It consisted of six Chapters, on the following subjects: 1. Preparing ground,

sowing, weeding, pulling, watering and grassing Flax. 2. Dressing Flax. 3. Hemp. 4. Spinning and spinning wheels. 5. Preparing yarn and looms. 6. Bleaching utensils and bleaching.

"Cloth, resembling Linen has been made from the filaments of trees, found in the Island of Madagascar, and in the islands of the South-seas. In Sweden, hop stalks were put into water in Autumn, and taken out in March: the filaments were then dressed like Flax, and made in the common manner, into fine strong cloth. The filaments of nettles have been dressed in the same manner as flax, and made into cloth of a fine texture."

We are precluded by want of room, from making any other than introductory observations on the work of Doctor Stephenson; we shall, however, as we have already said, resume the subject in a future number. Should we happen to differ with the author in any particular points, we shall not scruple to express our dissent, confident that in his candour and regard for utility, he will prefer the further elucidation of the subject, to any coincidence of opinion, not founded in experience and truth. We thus early announce, in this imperfect manner, the work of Doctor S. that as far as we can contribute to the measure, its circulation may be promoted, and that a spirit of inquiry, guided by science, may be generally excited, concerning a manufacture, on which the vital interest of Ireland so much depends. Its growing magnitude may be best appreciated by recollecting, that the annual amount of its value has been encreased, since the year in which Mr. Cromelin wrote his pamphlet, upwards of three millions sterling, and that it nearly equals in value, according to the estimate of Mr. Foster, the amount of all the manufactures of Great Britain exported to all the rest of Europe, Ireland excepted, at a period when the ports of Europe were open to her. The production of the raw material of this manufacture, is combined too with agricultural advantages. It is not confined to the walls of a factory; but diffuses itself through the channels of rural and domestic occupation; employing, in the different sexes and ages, that time, which would other-

wise be spent in idleness and vice, correcting and supplying the deficiencies of a soil, not the most favourable to culture, and giving a new face to a province, about a century back, the precarious field of adventure for Scotch colonists, and French refugees. We cannot close these remarks, without reminding, before it is too late, those who may prevent the introduction of Flax-seed, for another year, of the magnitude of the experiment they are about to try, and the great injury that may result from it. "*Such rash Counsellors,*" in the memorable words of Mr. Foster, one of the most eminent friends of the great staple of Ireland, "*should learn to dread the consequences of changing the course of manufactures, by forced measures, and that millions of people will not remain idle!*" R.

The Reviewer Reviewed; or, Observations on a Review of Dr. Richardson's Memoir, on the Irish Flax Grass, as it was published in the Transactions of the Belfast Literary Society. p.p. 24. 8vo. Belfast, Smyth & Lyons, 1808.

A MANUSCRIPT which has met with nothing but approbation from the friendly circle, no sooner changes its form, and issues from the printer's press to public view, than the author often feels his sanguine hopes disappointed at the cool reception which is given to this darling, which he flattered himself had every perfection; even the most gentle criticism offends, and what is mere justice, is ascribed to prejudice or ill-nature.

Let the author, however, place himself in the situation of a Reviewer; let him consider himself at all times responsible to the public, the director of their opinion for and against the productions of the press, and he will certainly make some allowance, and at least admit that the post which the Reviewer occupies, requires a never-ceasing attention, to hold himself free, even from the bonds of friendship. We conceive that true Reviewers should be, in the strictest sense, citizens of the world; totally uninfluenced by sect or party, quick-sighted as the lynx, to see the beauties and defects of the work before